

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SMS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /088 W

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R 280912Z AUG 78

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1853

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2698

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON ETRD CH UR

SUBJ: SINO-SOVIET TRADE IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1978

REF: PEKING 1149

1. SOVIET TRADE OFFICER HAS PROVIDED USLO WITH SINO-SOVIET
TRADE STATISTICS FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1978 AS WELL
AS A COMMODITY BREAKDOWN OF SINO-SOVIET TRADE IN 1976 AND
1977. HALF YEAR FIGURES (IN MILLIONS OF RUBLES) SHOW
INCREASES IN BOTH CHINESE EXPORTS TO AND IMPORTS FROM THE
USSR, WITH THE GREATEST GAIN IN EXPORTS.

	1977	JAN-JUN 1977	JAN-JUN 1978
CHINESE EXPORTS	130.1	49.3	69
CHINESE IMPRTS	118.4	44.2	50.8
TOTALS	248.5	93.5	119.8

2. SOVIET EMBOFF SAID THAT THE SECOND HALF OF 1978 WOULD
SHOW LESS IMPRESSIVE GAINS. THIS MAY BE BECAUSE SOME OF THE
FIRST HALF GROWTH WAS CARRY-OVER OF GOODS CONTRACTED
FOR IN THE 1977 TRRADE PROTOCOL. IF TRADE THIS YEAR
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FOLLOWS THE 1977 PATTERN, WHICH IS LIKELY, ABSOLUTE FIGURES
IN THE SECOND HALF SHOULD BE CONSIDERABLY ABOVE THOSE
OF THE FIRST. IT WOULD APPEAR UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT
GOODS DELIVERIES WILL REACH THE FIGURE OF 325 MILLION
RUBLES WHICH THE SOVIETS TOLD US IN JULY IS THIS YEAR'S
TARGET.

3. THE COMMODITY TRADE LIST FOR 1976 AND 1977 INDICATES
THAT CHINESE IMPORTS FROM THE SOVIETS DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY
IN EVERY MAJOR CATEGORY EXCEPT TRUCKS AND LIFTING EQUIPMENT
IN THE 1977 WHILE CHINESE EXPORTS REMAINED FAIRLY STABLE. FULL
LIST BEING SENT TO DEPARTMENT BY AIRGRAM AND TO INFO
ADDRESSEES BY POUCH.
WOODCOCK

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